

***Pulaski County
Community Development Commission***

Tuesday, 2 November 2021
Winamac Municipal Utilities Complex
Winamac, Indiana

Meeting Notes

Tuesday, 5 October 2021
Pulaski County Human Services West Side Center
Medaryville, Indiana

Members present: President Sheila Jimenez (Winamac), board member Brandon DeLorenzo; County Councilor Kathleen Thompson, Arthur Conley (Medaryville); *Bill Champion, Brian Ledley*. Executive Director Nathan P. Origer. Aaron Paulsen (Chamber) arrived at 6:04 *p.m.*

Members absent: Vice-President Christy Coon [business], Secretary Doug Denton (Monterey) [business] Membership Officer Kelsie Zellers [personal]; County Commissioner Maurice Loehmer, Lynn Johns (Francesville) [business]; Blake Kasten [personal], Breann Wilson [personal].

(Roman text indicates in-person attendance; *italics indicate telephone/Facebook attendance.*)

Call to Order

President Jimenez called the meeting to order at 6:01 *p.m.* The director noted a lack of quorum.

Consent Agenda

With no quorum present, the Consent Agenda was not adopted.

Old Business

Revolving Loan Fund matters — general updates: The director had no new update regarding IBC Thermoplastics and expressed increasing impatience; he would reconnect with Mr. Voranoff shortly for a status check. Two other borrowers were slightly behind in payments, but not problematically so, and the director would address this forthwith.

Revolving Loan Fund matters — program review: The director would follow up with the County's attorney regarding his review of the proposed program changes.

Solar-energy development: The Board of Zoning Appeals had approved the special-exception request for the Moss Creek Solar project in late September; the director would begin working on the economic-development agreement for that project in addition to the ongoing negotiations with Starke Solar, LLC, for the Mammoth project. The County Council would be conducting a public hearing on the Mammoth Solar tax-abatement request on 25 October, with a similar hearing to be held for the Moss Creek project in mid-December.

Virtual meeting-attendance policy: The director had nothing to report.

2022 budget: The County Council had adopted the budget with a part-time position restored to the Commission office and reductions to both the Professional Services and Marketing line-items.

Strategic visioning: The director reported that he would be holding open houses for public input later in the month at three to-be-determined locations, with the Strategic Visioning Committee planning to meet thereafter for final adjustments to and approval of the updated strategic plan prior to the full Commission's adoption thereof in November. Feedback from the County Board of Commissioners and Council, the Uptown Project, the Chamber of Commerce Board, and the Community Foundation Board had been minimal, but the director reported receiving helping comments from Ball State personnel whom he had asked to review the plan.

Other Pertinent Business

Community Foundation Forward Thinking Leadership/Aspirations in Action programming: Mr. Champion reported having met with the executive director of the Community Foundation of Pulaski County and the Foundation's Forward Thinking Leadership consultants, noting that he had a better feeling about their Aspirations in Action (AiA) programming after having met with them.

Director Origer is serving on the AiA and had met with the Foundation to discuss how best to align the AiA program with the Commission's under-development strategic plan.

COVID-relief small-business grants: Mr. Paulsen, whose business had received a grant, thanked the director and the members for their efforts to deliver this program to the community.

County budget: Councilor Thompson reported that one of her fellow Council members had expressed interest in eliminating the Commission's tourism-marketing budget, noting that she had reminded her colleague that the Council had been given the opportunity to comment on the strategic-plan update, a part of which would likely be an enhancement of tourism-development efforts, including continued and improved marketing.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

By consensus. 6:21 *p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

Nathan P. Origer, Executive Director/Recording Secretary